

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

OPIC VP Units Committed on High-Water Fighting in the Area of the Lower Oder River 25X1

EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                      25X1

DATE OF CONTENT                      25X1

DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 15 April 1953 25X1

REFERENCES                     

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

REMARKS                     

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. The KVP committed one engineer and one signal battalion to fight high water and ice 25X1  
motion in the area of the Lower Oder River near Schwedt and Garz. The engineers who  
were charged with demolitions displayed a poor state of training and had insufficient  
equipment which did not even include an electric ignition machine. They performed a  
blast with electric ignition in a very primitive way, using the storage battery of a  
car. The signal battalion constructed telephone lines and employed a number of radio  
sections. The telephone lines were ready for operation only after three days, and the  
employed radio sets had a very limited range. For instance, the radio section aboard  
an ice-breaker was not audible at the main station at Garz when the boat was north of  
Greifenhagen. No radio communication was possible during the last days of the action  
due to the lack of storage batteries.
2. Two KVP battalions including one engineer battalion from Brandenburg on the Havel  
River and one infantry battalion from Pinnow were employed on dike-protecting work.  
Each battalion consisted of three companies of about 100 men who were organized into  
three platoons, while some soldiers still wore blue uniforms, others already had  
olive drab uniforms.

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

4/98